



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 02 September 2005

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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Daily Highlights

- The Department of Energy has approved a request for a loan of six million barrels of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve; the crude oil will be loaned under short-term contractual agreements and returned to the Reserve once supply conditions return to normal. (See item [1](#))
- The Washington Post reports the effects of the monster storm that devastated the Gulf Coast are spreading through the nation's economy, disrupting shipping and rail networks, and sending prices for lumber, coffee and other commodities soaring. (See item [14](#))
- The United Nations' food agency urged governments to take a different approach to fighting bird flu by spending more money on researching the cause of the virus in poultry rather than spending vast sums on vaccines or anti-virals for humans. (See item [28](#))
- The Food and Drug Administration, using an accelerated approval process, has approved Fluarix, an influenza vaccine for adults that contains inactivated virus against influenza virus types A and B. (See item [29](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) –

1. *September 01, Department of Energy* — **Department of Energy announces loan of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.** Secretary of Energy Samuel W. Bodman announced on Thursday, September 1, that the Department of Energy has approved a request for a loan of six million barrels of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR). "We are committed to doing everything in our power to meet the immediate needs of those directly affected by Hurricane Katrina. By utilizing the resources from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, we will help minimize any potential supply disruptions as a result of the hurricane. With the Reserve fully operational, we will be able to start delivering this oil as soon as tomorrow," Bodman said. Thursday's agreement between the Department of Energy and ExxonMobil Corp. is for a loan of three million barrels of "sweet" crude and three million barrels of "sour" crude oil, and is larger than the 5.4 million barrels loaned during Hurricane Ivan. The crude oil will be loaned from the SPR under short-term contractual agreements and returned to the Reserve once supply conditions return to normal.

Source: http://www.energy.gov/engine/content.do?PUBLIC_ID=18621&BT_CODE=PR_PRESSRELEASES&TT_CODE=PRESSRELEASE

2. *September 01, Dow Jones Newswires* — **Florida grid monitor repeats power alert amid gas worries.** Florida's power grid monitor repeated its generating capacity alert on Thursday, September 1, as outages of natural gas production in the Gulf of Mexico after Hurricane Katrina continued to threaten Florida's power supplies. The state gets 30 to 35 percent of its power from generators that burn natural gas, well above the 18 percent national average, and depends significantly on Gulf gas production that Katrina has largely shut down. The Florida Reliability Coordinating Council (FRCC) repeated its appeal for power customers in the state to conserve electricity. "The continuation of the Alert is due to the continued uncertainty of restoration of natural gas production facilities in the Gulf of Mexico," the grid monitor said. The grid monitor has estimated that the state could handle the natural gas supply problems for days to a week without experiencing power generating problems.

FRCC generating capacity alert: <http://www.frcc.com/advisory.htm>

Source: http://money.iwon.com/jsp/nw/nwdt_rt_top.jsp?cat=TOPBIZ&src=704&feed=dji§ion=news&news_id=dji-00093920050901&date=20050901&alias=/alias/money/cm/nw

3. *September 01, Reuters* — **Hurricane Katrina may shut refineries for months.** Some U.S. oil refineries shut by Hurricane Katrina may be able to restart operations within one to two weeks, but others make take several months to resume making gasoline and other petroleum products, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) said Thursday, September 1. "Unlike 2004's Hurricane Ivan, which affected oil production facilities and had a lasting impact on crude oil production in the Gulf of Mexico, it appears that Hurricane Katrina may have a more lasting impact on refinery production and the distribution system," the EIA said in its most recent update on the effects of the hurricane on the energy sector. The Energy Department's analytical arm said nine major oil refineries in Louisiana and Mississippi remained shut from the hurricane. Those refineries account for about 11 percent of total U.S. refining capacity.

EIA Special Report on Hurricane Katrina's Impact on U.S. Energy:

http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/special/eia1_katrina.html

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/business/business-weather-katrina-refineries.html>

4. *September 01, Associated Press* — **Gasoline supplies strained.** Gasoline supplies tightened Thursday, September 1, in markets that depend on shipments from Gulf Coast refiners and pipelines. Industry officials said a small but growing number of independent gasoline retailers in the Southeast and Midwest may simply turn off their pumps in the days ahead, either because of shortages or because wholesale prices climbed so high so quickly that they cannot compete without selling fuel at a loss. "This will get worse before it gets better," said analyst Tom Kloza of Wall, NJ–based Oil Price Information Service. Also lifting gasoline futures was word that wholesale gasoline suppliers in the U.S. have been limiting the amount of fuel they sell to retailers in certain markets to make sure retailers do not take delivery of more than they need. While gasoline shortages have been reported in a few markets, analysts do not believe the problem is yet widespread. Greg Scott, a lawyer representing the Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers of America, described the supply situation in much of the East Coast as "dire" and that it could get worse. "We have to ask consumers to exercise restraint because a run on the bank is going to lead to more problems," he said.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/09/01/AR2005090100173.html>
5. *September 01, Reuters* — **Enbridge gas pipeline sustains hurricane damage.** All of Enbridge Inc.'s offshore gas pipelines in the Gulf of Mexico were still shut down on Thursday, September 1, and one that was in Hurricane Katrina's path has been damaged, a company official said. Enbridge's 800 million cubic feet a day Mississippi Canyon Gas Pipeline sustained damage to connections to offshore platforms as well as onshore pumping stations, spokesperson Jim Rennie said. The extent of the repairs the system will require is not yet known, Rennie said. Start-up of the other lines is dependent on the producers' ability to restart gas supply.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/nm/20050901/wl_cana_da_nm/canada_energy_enbridge_katrina_col_1
6. *August 31, Dow Jones Newswires* — **Industry worries gas processing plants damaged by Hurricane Katrina.** People in the U.S. natural gas industry are worried Hurricane Katrina may have damaged key processing facilities on the Gulf Coast, which could delay a recovery of supplies of the fuel. While it may be possible to restore the roughly 8.8 billion cubic feet of day of production currently off line in the Gulf of Mexico if platforms and pipelines are found to be intact, much of that gas can't be sent on to consumers without treatment at the plants located onshore. An analyst familiar with the situation said that four plants may have been affected. The four plants process a combined 5.5 billion cubic feet a day of natural gas. In the event that power outages or structural damage were to cause a prolonged outage at these plants, over 11 percent of U.S. domestic gas production could be affected. "The impact depends on whether it takes longer to get the processing plants up than it does to get the wells up and running," said Daphne Magnuson, a spokesperson for the American Gas Association.
Source: http://www.newratings.com/analyst_news/article_995374.html

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

7. *August 31, Claremore Daily Progress (OK)* — **Oklahoma school evacuated for ruptured gas line.** Justus–Tiawah School's north campus in Claremore, OK, was evacuated Monday

morning, August 29, following the rupture of a natural gas line that occurred around 10:30 a.m. Bob Anderson, director of the Rogers County, OK, Emergency Management Office, said 319 school personnel were moved by buses to the Claremore Community Center after a private contractor dug into an Oklahoma Natural Gas line and ruptured it. Both 4180 Road and construction along Oklahoma Highway–20 had to be shut down for safety precautions, Anderson said. Anderson said the Claremore Fire Department Hazmat unit, Tri–District Fire Department and Rogers County sheriff's office deputies responded to the scene.
Source: <http://www.claremoreprogress.com/archive/article21680>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *September 01, Washington Post* — **Scammers hit Web in Hurricane Katrina's wake.** Less than two days after the hurricane, Internet opportunists are already trying to cash in on public sympathy for Katrina's victims. Within the past 24 hours, several Websites have emerged, promising to forward money to relief workers. Bearing such names as Katrinahelp.com, katrinadonations.com and katrinarelief.com, the sites ask for money to be sent through Paypal, but there is no way to verify who is getting the money. FBI spokesperson Paul Bresson said the agency was investigating reports of fraudsters using e–mail and Websites to impersonate legitimate fundraising and relief organizations.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/08/31/AR2005083102574.html>

9. *August 31, Pacific Business News* — **Bankers fight identity theft.** Hawaii bankers announced Wednesday, August 31, plans to launch a six–week campaign across the state aimed at identity theft. "We hope that we can help customers avoid the hassle that identity theft causes," said Rodney Shinkawa, executive director of the eight–member Hawaii Bankers Association. Beginning September 1, the advertising campaign will hit on three key points: banks never call customers to request confidential account information over the phone; banks never ask for confidential information through e–mail; and monitor your account information and if you think it has been compromised, call your bank immediately.

Source: http://pacific.bizjournals.com/pacific/stories/2005/08/29/daily32.html?jst=b_In_hl

10. *August 31, CyberMedia News* — **Report reveals decrease in phishing attacks.** The Anti–Phishing Working Group (APWG) released the July Phishing Trends report on Wednesday, August 31. The report shows a slight decrease in conventional phishing attacks reported while crimeware, automated systems specifically for animating financial crime, continued its unrelenting growth. Meanwhile, APWG researchers report, they have found phishers are designing systems specifically to neutralize counter–phishing technologies deployed by financial institutions. The APWG reported a marked increase in screenscraper

technology by phishers, used to counter the graphical keyboard systems that some financial services firms are using to avoid the hazards of keylogging.

APWG July Phishing Trends report:

http://antiphishing.org/APWG_Phishing_Activity_Report_Jul_05.pdf

Source: <http://www.ciol.com/content/news/2005/105083116.asp>

11. *August 31, The Springfield News (OR)* — **Department of Motor Vehicles photos will combat identity theft.** For persons getting their photo taken at the Oregon Department of Driver and Motor Vehicle Services (DMV), their photo soon will be scanned and compared to other existing licenses and state identity cards to help prevent identity theft. "DMV is now a partner in our war to combat ID theft and on meth," said Senator Jackie Winters (R–Salem). The DMV will be installing the technology to check photos for people who are trying to get an identity under more than one name. Duplicates will be flagged for staff to check them, according to a statement issued by Winters. "Oregon ranks last in the nation in driver license security," said Senator Bruce Starr (R–Hillsboro), who co-sponsored the proposal. "The Portland metro area has an ID–theft rate higher than that of Seattle, Detroit, Chicago, Washington, D.C., or New York. DMV field office workers need the ability to know when a person is creating two, three, or even five identities for themselves," said Starr. The new system will be implemented over the next two years. When it is up and running, Oregon drivers' licenses and state identity cards will be mailed directly to customers from DMV headquarters in Salem.

Source: http://www.springfieldnews.com/articles/2005/08/31/local/new_s08.txt

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

12. *September 01, Department of Transportation* — **Statement from the Federal Aviation Administration concerning the fuel supply for commercial aviation.** Officials with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) are continuously canvassing airports, airlines, and jet fuel providers to ensure sufficient supplies are on hand to support normal commercial operations. Notwithstanding inaccurate speculation by some individuals quoted in media reports, current information received by the FAA indicates airports and airlines have enough jet fuel to support continued full commercial operations. Given that a number of major pipeline operators have now resumed operations, we believe the aviation industry will not face any immediate disruptions relating to the supply of jet fuel.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot11605.htm>

13. *September 01, Department of Transportation* — **Highway information for areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.** The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is supporting state and local officials in assessing damage to highways, bridges, railroads, airports, transit systems, ports, and pipelines. DOT is also supporting detour planning and critical transportation system repairs. The following state department of transportation Websites provide currently available information on highway closures and conditions in areas impacted by Hurricane Katrina:

Alabama: Traffic Information Line: 1–800–843–0699 <http://www.dot.state.al.us/closures/>

Florida: Emergency Information Line: 1–800–342–3557

<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/publicinformationoffice/traffic/trafficwarnings.htm>

Louisiana: Traffic Information Line: 1–800–256–7036

<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/publicinformationoffice/traffic/trafficwarnings.htm>
Mississippi: Traffic Information Line: 1-800-222-6362 <http://www.mstraffic.com/>
Texas: Highway Conditions Information: 1-800-452-9292
http://www.dot.state.tx.us/txdotnews/katrina_info.htm
Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/katrinahighwayinfo.htm>

14. *September 01, Washington Post* — **Critical U.S. supply line is disrupted.** The effects of the monster storm that devastated the Gulf Coast are spreading through the nation's economy, disrupting shipping and rail networks and sending prices for lumber, coffee and other commodities soaring. Hurricane Katrina is likely to drag down U.S. economic growth in the months ahead, analysts said, threatening what has been a robust expansion. Katrina's economic effects may be more lasting than those that usually follow big storms, economists and businesspeople said Wednesday, August 31, owing to the severity of the damage and the unique geography of the New Orleans region. The storm hit a chokepoint in the U.S. economy — a concentration of ports, rail lines, barge traffic and major highways making up one of the nation's major trade hubs. Rail carriers Norfolk Southern Corp., Union Pacific Corp. and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corp. have all stopped freight traffic into the afflicted area. And shipping experts said it is hard to predict how long it will take the Port of New Orleans and other nearby ports to reopen, given that they may need to dredge new channels and make major repairs. Efforts to reach officials of the Port of New Orleans were unsuccessful.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/08/31/AR2005083102755.html>
15. *September 01, Associated Press* — **Airlines cancel more flights.** Some major carriers have canceled flights to the New Orleans and Gulfport, MS, airports — popular destinations for tourists, convention participants and gamblers — until at least next week, increasing financial pressure for the airlines as they also deal with potential fuel shortages. Daily jet fuel production nationwide has been cut 13 percent because of damage from the hurricane to Gulf Coast refineries, according to Jack Evans of the Air Transport Association. The New Orleans airport, meanwhile, has reopened to allow humanitarian flights in and out during daylight hours, but officials are unsure when commercial service will resume there. The uncertainty has raised questions about the financial impact on the airlines that in particular serve that airport. One runway is usable but getting to the airport is difficult, officials said. Officials said the New Orleans airport has no significant airfield damage and had no standing water in aircraft movement areas. The airport did sustain damage to its roofs, hangars and fencing. At the Gulfport airport, which is served by five airlines, there was some damage to the control tower and to AirTran's gate area, Hutcheson said.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2005-08-31-hurricane-flights_x.htm
16. *September 01, Associated Press* — **Sleepy air controller causes delays.** A sleepy air traffic controller left dozens of airline passengers up in the air over Australia's national capital after arriving late at work. "The guy slept in," acknowledged Ben Mitchell, spokesperson for Air Services Australia, the government-funded organization that oversees air traffic control towers throughout Australia. As a result, the tower at Canberra International Airport opened 20 minutes late Wednesday morning, August 31, and a Qantas Boeing 737-800 from Perth was forced to circle over the city before getting clearance to land. The plane, carrying 68 passengers, touched down 12 minutes after its scheduled arrival time. "There was another

controller in the tower, but he was not senior enough to bring the plane in," Mitchell said.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2005-09-01-aussie-controller_x.htm

17. *September 01, Department of Homeland Security* — **Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative formally submitted for public comment.** The Departments of Homeland Security and State formally submitted the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative proposal for public comment. The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative will require all U.S. citizens, citizens of the British Overseas Territory of Bermuda, and citizens of Canada and Mexico to have a passport or other accepted secure document that establishes the bearer's identity and nationality to enter or re-enter the United States by January 1, 2008. The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 mandated that the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, develop and implement a plan to require U.S. citizens and foreign nationals to present a passport, or other secure document when entering the United States. Those wishing to comment on the proposal may access the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>
For more information, visit <http://www.travel.state.gov>
Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=4776>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

18. *September 01, Food and Agriculture Organization* — **Foot-and-mouth disease remains a constant threat to Europe.** The European Commission (EC) will step up its fight against foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) by providing \$7.2 million to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) European Commission for the Control of FMD (EUFGMD). An agreement between the EC and FAO was signed Thursday, September 1. The objective of the EC project is to prevent the entry of the FMD virus from infected areas outside Europe. FMD is highly contagious among cattle, buffalo, sheep, and pigs and can seriously reduce milk and meat production, FAO said. The FMD virus is currently present in 60 countries around the world, in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and Latin America. "The EC funding will enable us to improve FMD surveillance and control activities in countries that continue to pose a risk to Europe, mainly by strengthening their veterinary services," said Keith Sumption, Secretary of the EUFGMD. "The lack of transparency and reliable information on the occurrence and scale of epidemics in some high-risk areas and the lack of reporting to international agencies like FAO and the World Animal Health Organization is still often of major concern," Sumption said. FAO will now be able to send FMD experts to affected countries within 24 hours to analyze the situation to provide technical support and assist in mobilizing additional emergency resources.
Source: <http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2005/107415/index.html>

19.

September 01, Lawn & Landscape — **Sudden oak death found in South Carolina.** Clemson University department of plant industry officials reports the first confirmed identification of the pathogen that causes Sudden Oak Death, *Phytophthora ramorum*, in South Carolina this year. Other positive plants have been found in Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and Tennessee. "One of the major concerns about *Phytophthora ramorum* in the Southeast is that it is a forest pathogen in northern California, which is an area with a climate similar to the southern Appalachian Mountains," said Christel Harden, assistant department head for plant industry, a section of Clemson University regulatory and public service programs that oversees agriculture activities for the state. Clemson University scientists have been monitoring nurseries, landscapes and forests of South Carolina for *P. ramorum*, a fungus-like organism. The pathogen has killed thousands of oaks and associated plant species in the coastal forests of California and southwest Oregon and attacked ornamental plants (causing a disease called Ramorum Blight) in nurseries and landscapes in the U.S. and Europe. Southeastern researchers worry that the disease could have the same effect on Eastern forests as chestnut blight did in the early 1900s. Caused by a fungus from Asia, chestnut blight nearly wiped out the species within 50 years. If the pathogen takes hold in the South, *P. ramorum* could cause significant damage to the region's forest and nursery industries.

Source: <http://www.lawnandlandscape.com/news/news.asp?ID=3734>

20. *August 31, Stop Soybean Rust News* — Rust find in Florida, makes U.S. total 50 counties.

With the new soybean rust confirmation in Jackson, Florida, reported Wednesday, August 31, there are now an even 50 counties in the U.S. where Asian soybean rust has been found in 2005. Thirteen new counties were found to have soybean rust in Florida in August, and for the first time commercial fields were found to be infected; one each in Hamilton, Madison, and Walton counties. There are now 21 counties positive for soybean rust in Florida, nearly a third of the state's 67 counties. There is now a long unbroken line of counties positive for rust along nearly all of Florida's northern border — from Escambia on the west to Columbia.

Source: <http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=526>

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Food Sector

Nothing to report.

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Water Sector

21. *September 01, Clarion-Ledger (MS)* — Mississippi puts 49 counties under boil-water alert.

Three days after Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast, many Mississippians are laboring toward recovery without safe drinking water. The state Health Department reported Wednesday, August 31, afternoon that 135 state water systems in 49 counties are under boil-water notices. The notices warn consumers not to drink or use their water for any sterile purpose without first boiling it for at least a minute. Massive power outages caused by Katrina's strong winds, rain and flooding caused many water systems to lose pressure after power was lost to water system pump motors. State utilities have made restoration of power to water

supplies a priority because of public health concerns.

Source: <http://www.clarionledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050901/NEWS0110/509010390/1260>

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Public Health Sector

- 22. *September 01, Agence France–Presse* — Another bird flu death reported in Vietnam.** A resident of Vietnam's capital has died of bird flu in the first such fatality for a month, a medical official said, citing initial tests. "These tests have shown that the 58-year-old patient from Soc Son district (of Hanoi) was positive to the H5 virus," said Nguyen Tran Hien, director of the institute of epidemiology in Hanoi. If confirmed, medical experts say, it will almost certainly be the H5N1 virus, which has killed 43 people in Vietnam including the latest case. "The man died on August 24 in a hospital in the capital but we need to conduct more tests to determine the N1 element," Hien said Thursday, September 1. The last human fatality from bird flu Vietnam was on July 31 in Ho Chi Minh City.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20050901/hl_afp/healthfluvietnam_050901122656;_ylt=AoBaliksp9OqtMG8rGWngrSJOrgF:_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCUI

- 23. *September 01, Agence France–Presse* — Thousands of patients evacuated from New Orleans area hospitals.** Authorities evacuated thousands of patients from at least nine hospitals left by Hurricane Katrina with no power, water, or toilets and working conditions described as "unreal." Don Smithburg, chief of Louisiana State University hospitals, told a press conference some 10,000 patients, staff, and other personnel were being moved out as vital fuel for generators ran out. Medical staff recounted scenes of desperation and violence: battles with panicked survivors, gunshots fired at helicopters ferrying out babies, animals running wild, and garbage rotting in the sweltering heat. A nurse said the authorities had to stop medevacing patients out late Tuesday, August 30, because gunmen on the streets were shooting at the helicopters. Smithburg told reporters that patients would be at risk if left in the hospitals in the wake of Katrina. Tenet Healthcare Corporation, which operates five hospitals in the New Orleans area and one on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, said Tuesday, August 30, three of its facilities had been forced to evacuate all patients and staff.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20050901/ts_alt_afp/usweatherhealthhospitals_050901074504;_ylt=Ai9Rf0Nbn6Bo806j_FqzvCOJOrgF:_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCUI

- 24. *September 01, Reuters* — Philippines starts polio fight after Indonesia outbreak.** The Philippines has started a polio vaccination drive in the south of the country, fearing a possible spread of the virus from Indonesia. Health Secretary Francisco Duque said in a statement the campaign was targeting about 605,000 children in five provinces of the country's autonomous Muslim region and Zamboanga City, both in southern Mindanao Island. The vaccinations in the Philippines started on August 30 in parts of Maguindanao province after the World Health Organization warned that the outbreak of polio in Indonesia could spread in other countries in the region. The Department of Health said a second round was scheduled on September 26 in the southern provinces of Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu, Tawi-tawi, and Basilan.

Indonesia had been free from polio since 1995 but the disease returned in May. The number of confirmed cases has hit 225. The last case of polio in the Philippines was in 1993.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/MAN76671.htm>

25. *September 01, Bloomberg* — **Hurricane Katrina aftermath may bring hepatitis, cholera, officials say.** Hurricane Katrina's aftermath may bring outbreaks of diseases through the Gulf Coast region, U.S. public health officials said. Flooding since the hurricane struck on August 29 threatens to contaminate water supplies with bacteria and to provide breeding grounds for mosquitoes that spread ailments such as the West Nile virus. "We are gravely concerned about the potential for cholera, typhoid and dehydrating diseases that could come as a result of the stagnant water and the conditions," Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt said at a briefing Wednesday, August 31. "We're also concerned about mosquito abatement." U.S. officials are rushing doctors and supplies to the region, hurt by contamination of water and food supplies and flood–forced hospital closings. Drug makers are also sending donations to the affected area. Decomposing bodies, failed sewage systems, and rotting debris left by Katrina are ideal breeding grounds for bacteria, viruses, and parasites, public health experts said.

Source: http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000087&sid=a2N9OBRCdAZU&refer=top_world_news

26. *September 01, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory* — **System drastically cuts down botulism detection time.** One of the most lethal substances in the world — botulism — can be detected using special systems in about 20 to 25 minutes. Now, researchers at the U.S. Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory can detect its presence in five minutes, using the lab's Biodetection Enabling Analyte Delivery System (BEADS) combined with optical detection. The detection system includes three critical components. First, BEADS isolates the toxin from environmental samples. Next, an antibody is used to purify and concentrate the pathogen or toxin to enable accurate and sensitive detection. Finally, a second antibody, called a reporter antibody, labeled with a fluorescent dye or a fluorescent quantum dot binds to a different region on the toxin or pathogen. The fluorescence of the quantum dot is measured on the bead and can quantify the concentration of the toxin. In addition to detecting botulinum, the system can be tailored to detect multiple pathogens or toxins, such as E. coli, salmonella, and ricin, simultaneously.

Source: <http://www.pnl.gov/news/notes/beads05.stm>

27. *August 31, Interfax (Russia)* — **Tularemia cases reported in Russia.** More than thirty residents of the villages of Volyny and Staroutkinsk in the Sverdlovsk region of Russia have been hospitalized with suspected tularemia, the Federal Consumer Rights and Welfare Service's Shalinsky district office told Interfax on Wednesday, August 31. Two other patients suspected of having contracted tularemia have been hospitalized in Yekaterinburg, the hospital press service said.

Tularemia information: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenu/sub_tularemia.htm

Source: http://www.interfax.ru/e/B/politics/28.html?id_issue=1136965_6

28. *August 31, Agence France–Presse* — **United Nations urges governments to change focus in fight against bird flu.** The United Nations' (UN) food agency urged governments to take a different approach to fighting bird flu by spending more money on researching the cause of the virus in poultry rather than spending vast sums on vaccines or anti–virals for humans.

"Considerable amounts of money have been invested in order to look for treatments for humans or to build up stocks of anti-virals instead of concentrating efforts on the source, that's to say, the animals themselves," the chief veterinarian at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Joseph Domenech, told a news conference. "For as long as the virus H5N1 is found in poultry, it will continue to threaten humans," Domenech said. The H5N1 virus, which spread to Russia and Kazakhstan this summer, has killed about 60 people in southeast Asia since 2003. According to FAO statistics, it has led to the death of 140 million birds, either directly or via culls to contain the highly infectious disease.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20050831/hl_afp/healthflufao_050831145840;_ylt=AjTYZzpOn6aFNf35XUD4a.GJOrgF;_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU1

29. *August 31, Food and Drug Administration* — **FDA approves new influenza vaccine.** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Wednesday, August 31, approved Fluarix, an influenza vaccine for adults that contains inactivated virus. Fluarix is approved to immunize adults 18 years of age and older against influenza virus types A and B contained in the vaccine. "FDA's approval of Fluarix is a big step toward providing an adequate supply of flu vaccine for the American public," said Mike Leavitt, Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS). "Having more manufacturers of influenza vaccine licensed in the U.S., and having more vaccine dosages, is critical to public health." The approval of Fluarix breaks new ground in that it is the first vaccine approved using FDA's accelerated approval process. Accelerated approval allows products that treat serious or life-threatening illnesses to be approved based on successfully achieving an endpoint that is reasonably likely to predict ultimate clinical benefit, usually one that can be studied more rapidly than showing protection against disease. In this case, the manufacturer demonstrated that after vaccination with Fluarix adults made levels of protective antibodies in the blood that FDA believes are likely to be effective in preventing flu. GlaxoSmithKline, the manufacturer of Fluarix, will do further clinical studies as part of the accelerated approval process to verify the clinical benefit of the vaccine.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/news/2005/NEW01227.html>

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Government Sector

30. *September 01, CNN* — **Cabinet level task force will coordinate relief efforts.** Bush sought Thursday, September 1, to reassure victims of Hurricane Katrina that the federal government was doing its best to send aid to the thousands of displaced and stranded people. At the White House, he announced a massive federal mobilization to help victims of the storm, but said recovery "will take years." Bush announced that he has created a Cabinet level task force to coordinate hurricane relief efforts across federal agencies, headed by Homeland Security Director Michael Chertoff. The head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Michael Brown, will be in charge of the federal response on the ground in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Bush said the federal government's first priority is to rescue those still trapped and provide medical assistance. The president said the federal government would also undertake a "comprehensive recovery effort" to rebuild devastated communities and restore infrastructure, including roads and bridges wiped out by Katrina, an effort he said would take years. The White House also announced Wednesday, August 31, that Bush has asked his father, former

President George H. W. Bush, and former President Bill Clinton to spearhead an international relief effort for hurricane victims.

Press Conference with Officials from Homeland Security, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Departments of Health and Human Services, Energy, Transportation, and Defense: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=4773>

Transcript of President Bush's speech:

<http://www.cnn.com/2005/POLITICS/08/31/bush.transcript/index.html>

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2005/POLITICS/09/01/bush.katrina/index.html>

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Emergency Services Sector

- 31. *September 01, Department of Homeland Security* — National Preparedness Month 2005 activities commence.** More than 190 national organizations and all 56 states and territories have joined the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the American Red Cross to increase public awareness as part of National Preparedness Month 2005, which commenced Thursday, September 1. Some activities taking place throughout September are: a) Citizen Corps, the DHS' grassroots effort, will work with its more than 1,770 state and local councils and partners to promote community-based preparedness, outreach and training opportunities; b) More than 900 American Red Cross field units will take preparedness messages to the local level with a variety of events and activities aimed at encouraging families to make and discuss their emergency communications plans; c) Tennessee is undertaking a series of statewide initiatives including the Governor proclaiming September as Preparedness Month and releasing public service advertisements encouraging Tennesseans to prepare for emergencies; d) The National Organization on Disability's Emergency Preparedness Initiative will introduce a national outreach and awareness campaign, "Partners in Preparedness;" e) The National Latino Peace Officers Association will distribute materials to communities throughout the country at events, including Mexican Independence Day festivals, in Los Angeles and Houston on September 17.

Official Website: <http://www.ready.gov/npm/index.htm>

Calendar of Events: <http://www.citizencorps.gov/citizenCorps/eventCalendarMap.do>

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=4774>

- 32. *September 01, CNN* — Boat operations suspended; violence prevalent in New Orleans.** As police and National Guard troops struggled to restore order Thursday, September 1, in New Orleans, emergency teams suspended boat rescue operations because conditions in the flooded city were too dangerous, rescuers said. The instructions to stand down came during a meeting with officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Authorities were concerned for the rescuers' safety because some people have become violent toward those on the boats. He said officials were trying to figure out how to safely resume rescues. Widespread looting and random gunfire have been reported across the city. Officers said they lack manpower and steady communications to properly do their jobs — and that they need help to prevent the widespread looting and violence now prevalent in the city. Pentagon officials said Wednesday, August 31, the governors of Louisiana and Mississippi have ordered the mobilization of an additional 10,000 National Guard troops to provide security and help with hurricane relief.
- Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2005/WEATHER/09/01/katrina.impact/index.html>

33. *September 01, Government Technology* — **New command and operations emergency simulation center in Virginia.** Wednesday, August 31, Virginia Governor Mark R. Warner announced the creation of a state-of-the-art center devoted to the command and operations management side of homeland security training. Located in Suffolk, VA, the Emergency Management Training, Analysis & Simulation Center (EMTASC) capitalizes on the state's positioning as a premier location for defense and security modeling and simulation activities. While there are more than a dozen existing emergency management-related training centers in the nation, they focus more on training the individual responders; EMTASC is the first and only center to target command and management at the operational level, according to research conducted by Old Dominion University's Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center. EMTASC will employ world-class expertise and high-tech modeling and simulation tools to conduct training, exercises, analysis and operational support to its clients. Clients will be able to design simulated exercises focusing on their own specific needs. This type of training challenges participants to respond to dynamic scenarios and actions in real-time, as well as explore the second and third order effects of their decisions. The Center will be ready to conduct its first training by January, with initial emphasis placed on Virginia localities and emerging to a national client base.

Source: <http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=96496>

34. *September 01, Desert News (UT)* — **Drill tests Utah police in extreme situation.** Salt Lake City, UT, police tuned up their skills for dealing with a large disaster Wednesday, August 31. This drill was the first time a mass exercise was set up and run exclusively by Salt Lake City police. In the drill, a woman in a car was found with an explosive device wrapped around her chest near a set of refinery tanks. Officers learned at least two other men kidnapped the woman's family at another location and were holding them hostage. In the drill, the suspects threatened to kill her family if she didn't wear the explosives and go to the fuel tanks. The scenario was meant to test how the department would handle being faced with two significant incidents happening simultaneously. Chief Rick Dinse said the drill helped train his officers for situations that require quick thinking. He pointed to the current disaster in New Orleans and Mississippi as an example of a scenario that emergency crews could not have planned for and are being constantly challenged to adapt to new problems. About 75 officers participated in Wednesday's exercise.

Source: <http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,600160115,00.html>

35. *August 31, Federal Computer Week* — **New Orleans radio system flooded.** Operation of the New Orleans police radio system in the wake of Hurricane Katrina has been plagued not only by floodwaters but by a lack of natural gas to power generators. Not only that, Louisiana State Police turned away repair technicians when they attempted to reach the city, according to an Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials International report. The report, contained in an e-mail Wednesday, August 31, from Dominic Tusa, a communications consultant in Covington, LA, to Willis Carter, chief of communications for the Shreveport, LA, fire department said the New Orleans Police Department's dispatch center on the second floor of police headquarters was flooded; hence, police were forced to relocate to the nearby Hilton Hotel. Tusa said the police department's citywide 800 MHz radio system functioned well during and immediately after the hurricane hit New Orleans, but since then natural gas service to the prime downtown transmitter site was disrupted and the generator was out. Transmitter

sites for the police radio system “are also underwater with the rising water and [are] now disabled,” Tusa said. Owners of the sites that housed police radio transmitters would not allow installation of liquefied petroleum gas tanks as a backup to piped gas.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article90541-08-31-05-Web>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

36. *September 01, Computerworld* — **Telecoms struggling to restore service in Gulf Coast region.** Cellular and other communication services have gradually improved in the Gulf Coast region, but service providers said Thursday, September 1, they still can't reach equipment in the flooded city of New Orleans to make needed repairs. Officials at Cingular Wireless LLC, Verizon Wireless, Sprint Corp. and BellSouth Corp. reported that with flooding and power outages in New Orleans, crews can't access cellular sites and switching stations for repairs. Of about 1 million landline phones in Louisiana that were out of service after the storm hit Monday, only 130,000 have been restored so far, said Bill Oliver, BellSouth's president of Louisiana operations. Telecommunications have improved, however, in places such as Baton Rouge, Mobile, AL, and Pensacola, FL, company spokespersons said. The carriers are all relying on backup generators and in some cases portable generators and cellular transceivers carried on panel trucks. When possible, the carriers are also increasing power to rooftop cell sites in New Orleans to boost signals, the spokespeople said. "This is much worse than the 9/11 emergency. It is not just a part of a city like New York," said Jeff Kagan, an independent telecommunications analyst in Atlanta, GA. Wireless providers urged callers to use text messaging as an alternative to voice calls, partly because it requires less bandwidth.

Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/networkingtopics/networking/voice/story/0,10801,104324,00.html>

37. *August 31, Security Focus* — **Symantec AntiVirus Corporate Edition local information disclosure vulnerability.** Symantec AntiVirus Corporate Edition is susceptible to a local information disclosure vulnerability. Sensitive information such as the server name, IP address, subnet, subnet mask, connection protocol, username and password to access the LiveUpdate server are logged in a plain text file. A local attacker can subsequently access the file and disclose authentication credentials to access the server. This may lead to various attacks including the potential compromise of the server. Security Focus is not currently aware of any vendor-supplied patches for this issue.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/14708/info>

38. *August 31, Security Focus* — **DameWare Mini Remote Control Server pre-authentication username buffer overflow vulnerability.** DameWare Mini Remote Control Server is affected by a remote buffer overflow vulnerability. This issue presents itself because the application fails to perform boundary checks prior to copying user-supplied data into sensitive process buffers. Remote attackers may execute arbitrary machine code in the context of the affected server process, facilitating system compromise. Users of affected packages should contact the vendor for further information on obtaining fixes.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/14707/info>

39. *August 31, FrSIRT* — **HP-UX java runtime environment (JRE) applet security bypass issue.** A vulnerability was identified in HP-UX, which could be exploited by remote attackers to execute arbitrary commands. This flaw is due to an error in Java Runtime Environment (JRE) when handling specially crafted applets, which may be exploited via a malicious webpage to read and/write arbitrary files on a vulnerable system and execute local applications with the privileges of the user running the untrusted applet. For additional information, see : FrSIRT/ADV-2005-0764 Products affected are HP-UX B.11.00 – HP-UX B.11.23 Users should upgrade to JRE revision 1.4.2.09.00 or 5.0.01.00 : <http://www.hp.com/go/java> Source: <http://www.frsirt.com/english/advisories/2005/1593>
40. *August 31, Security Tracker* — **Vulnerabilities in FlatNuke.** Some vulnerabilities have been discovered in FlatNuke. The software does not properly validate user-supplied input in the 'id' parameter. A remote user can supply a specially crafted parameter value containing a filename with '../' directory traversal characters and ending with '%00' to view arbitrary files on the target system. A remote user can view files on the target system with the privileges of the target web service. A remote user can access the target user's cookies (including authentication cookies), if any, associated with the site running the FlatNuke software, access data recently submitted by the target user via web form to the site, or take actions on the site acting as the target user. A remote user can determine the installation path. No solution is currently known. Source: <http://securitytracker.com/alerts/2005/Aug/1014824.html>

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis: US-CERT has received reports of multiple phishing sites that attempt to trick users into donating funds to fraudulent foundations in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. US-CERT warns users to expect an increase in targeted phishing emails due to recent events in the Gulf Coast Region.

Phishing emails may appear as requests from a charitable organization asking the users to click on a link that will then take them to a fraudulent site that appears to be a legitimate charity. The users are then asked to provide personal information that can further expose them to future compromises.

Users are encouraged to take the following measures to protect themselves from this type of phishing attack:

1. Do not follow unsolicited web links received in email messages
2. Contact your financial institution immediately if you believe your account/and or financial information has been compromised

US-CERT strongly recommends that all users reference the Federal Emergency Management Agency Website for a list of legitimate charities to donate to their

charity of choice.

For more information and current disaster updates please see URL:

<http://www.fema.gov/>

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (----), 135 (epmap), 445 (microsoft-ds), 26777 (----), 6346 (gnutella-svc), 6881 (bittorrent), 80 (www), 139 (netbios-ssn), 25 (smtp), 1434 (ms-sql-m) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center
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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

41. *September 01, Reuters* — Hurricane Katrina ends 'Big Easy' tourism for a long while.

Hurricane Katrina, which tore through Louisiana killing hundreds of people and leaving more than 80 percent of New Orleans underwater, also blew away the state's biggest source of revenue: tourism. It could cost New Orleans — home to some of the nation's biggest conventions and festivals — billions of dollars more in lost revenue from tourism, as hotels and airports remain closed and conventioners remain uncertain about the location of future events. The Morial Convention Center in New Orleans is one of the largest meetings facilities in the nation, with more than 1.1 million square feet of exhibit space. The hurricane came just before autumn, which is the center's busiest convention season. More than 40 conventions are listed on its Website. The National Business Aviation Association is set to hold its annual convention in New Orleans November 15–17, an event that drew more than 31,000 last year. The organization said it will closely monitor developments over the coming weeks and will assess the conditions at the convention center, airport, surrounding hotels and restaurants, transportation infrastructure and other infrastructure required for the event. The city also hosts festivals such as Mardi Gras and the Jazz & Heritage Festival — which draw hundreds of thousands of visitors every year.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-08-31-hurricane-no-tourism_x.htm

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General Sector

42. *September 01, Associated Press* — Four indicted in alleged U.S. terror plot. Four men, including the head of a radical Islamic prison gang, were indicted on federal charges of plotting terrorist attacks against military facilities, the Israeli Consulate, and synagogues in Los Angeles, CA. U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, in announcing the charges Wednesday, August 31, referred to the London, England, mass transit attacks in July. Three of the men are American citizens and the other is a legal permanent resident originally from Pakistan. Named

in the indictment were Levar Haley Washington, 25; Gregory Vernon Patterson, 21; Hammad Riaz Samana, 21; and Kevin James, 29. The four conspired to wage war against the U.S. government through terrorism, kill armed service members, and murder foreign officials, according to the indictment. Prosecutors contend the plot was orchestrated by Washington, Patterson, and Samana at the behest of James, an inmate at the California State Prison–Sacramento who founded the radical group Jamiyyat Ul–Islam Is–Saheeh (JIS). According to the indictment, Washington pledged his loyalty to James "until death by martyrdom" and sought to establish a JIS cell outside prison with members with bomb expertise. The attacks were to be carried out with firearms and other weapons at synagogues during Jewish holidays "to maximize the number of casualties," authorities said.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/09/01/AR2005090100269.html>

43. *September 01, USA TODAY* — **Engineers had warned of a looming disaster.** For years, engineers up and down the Mississippi River have talked about the disaster that would result if New Orleans' bulwark of levees and floodwalls were hit by a hurricane like Katrina. But when it was time to find money to strengthen them, the city's defenses ended up far down the federal government's priority list. Now, with 80 percent of the city submerged by water pouring through three breaches in its protections, dealing with the consequences is proving far more difficult than anyone anticipated. The flooding is worse, and the rehearsed responses aren't working. Joe Suhayda, an oceanographer and retired engineering professor at Louisiana State University, says the weakness was "an acknowledged, likely scenario that was not dealt with in the sense that (officials) solved the problem." Suhayda helped with an emergency response exercise last year in which computer models showed that the levees and floodwalls guarding the city would be overwhelmed by even a Category 3 hurricane they were designed to withstand. But there was no anticipating the problems officials face in repairing the damage inflicted on the city's flood controls when Katrina rolled in Monday, August 29, as a Category 4 storm with winds over 140 mph.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-09-01-water_x.htm

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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